

Bexar County Democratic Party

November 2011



Thursday, Nov. 10

CEC Meeting
6:30-8:30 pm
El Tropicano Hotel

Friday, Nov. 11

Veterans Day

Saturday, November 12

Bexar County Tejano
Democrats Awards
Banquet 6:30 pm
Estela's Restaurant
2200 W. Martin

Wednesday, November 16

BCDP Campaign

Committee Mtg 6:30 pm
BCDP Office 315 Ninth St

Clean Elections Texas
6:30 pm Radius Center
106 Auditorium Circle

Saturday, November 19

Northwest Dems Monthly
Mtg 8:30 am
Luby's Ingram Park Mall

Monday, November 21

Stonewall Dems of SA
Monthly Mtg 6:30 pm
Luby's 911 N. Main

BCDP Rules Committee
Mtg 6:30 pm

BCDP Office 315 Ninth St

Tuesday, November 22

BCDP Precinct
Recruitment & Training
Committee Mtg 7:00 pm
BCDP Office 315 Ninth St

Wednesday November 23

BCDP Communications
Committee Mtg 6:30 pm
BCDP Office 315 Ninth St

Thursday, November 24
Happy Thanksgiving!!

Monday, November 28

1st Day to File for Place
on Ballot

Saturday, December 1

Northeast Dems Monthly
Mtg 9:00 am
George Gervin Academy
6944 South Sunbelt Dr.

Monday, December 5

Bexar Cty Democratic
Women 6:30 pm
Cha-Cha's Restaurant
2026 Babcock

Celebrating Veterans Protectors of our Democracy



As a young elementary school student, I recall my morning routine: running to get in line to walk into my classroom, finding a front row desk, and hoping to get picked to say the Pledge of Allegiance. Saying those words on a daily basis is how we build pride, respect, honor, and love for our country.

Like many, I enjoy parades and see how the crowds wait anxiously to see the bands from the different military branches. Many hum or sing the lyrics to songs like the Halls of Montezuma as we wait to see the men and women wearing crisp uniforms with very serious faces. We proudly stand, salute, and applaud them because we recognize that they have always stood at attention guarding walls throughout the world to protect our nation, fight to maintain democracy as our greatest ideal, and willing to give their life for our freedom.

The vast majority returned home, perhaps not the same, but they all became our neighborhood heroes. Our heavy hearts remember those who were not as fortunate and they became our neighborhood icons. We are a grateful nation who salutes all the members of our military service.

In the words of President Barack Obama at a Veteran's Day tribute he said: "To all of them -- to our veterans, to the fallen and to their families -- there is no tribute, no commemoration, no praise that can truly match the magnitude of your service and your sacrifice,"

As members of the Bexar County Democratic Party, we express our gratitude and commit to never forgetting the sacrifices of our Veterans. We will continue to put our words of praise and appreciation into action because we HONOR VETERANS!

Bexar County Democratic Party Update

We are pleased to report that the BCDP is thriving! Over 300 contributors donated money to pay off the 2008 Primary debt in full, and that issue is now officially behind us. In addition, a jury convicted former Treasurer Dwayne Adams for that theft and sentenced him to 6 years in jail. Prosecutors have recommended a restitution of \$178,000 that Mr. Adams must pay back to the Party.

The BCDP received a letter of award from the Secretary of State's office to notify us of state funding for the 2012 Democratic Primary. I, along with two volunteers (Pat Galloway & Rosemarie de Hoyos) attended a Primary Election training session in Austin with the Secretary of State office. Finally, those interested in running for office are encouraged to contact me at the BCDP office (210) 892-2999 or bcdp@bexardemocrats.org. The Party is off and running -- looking forward to a successful 2012 election.

Chaco Meza
BCDP Chair

President Obama Leads on Veterans Issues

by Jackie Christianson & Todd Hedley

Once again, Veterans Day has provide us the opportunity for a grateful nation to pay its respects to all of America's veterans, both those who are still with us and those who are not. The Democratic Party of Bexar County would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to our veterans, who willingly put their lives on the line to help preserve and protect the country and the freedoms that make the United States of America a special place among the community of nations.

As we stop to reflect on the sacrifices made by our veterans, we also must recognize that these sacrifices can pose continuing challenges as our veterans often face difficult transitions to civilian life.

Our President understands these challenge. On this Veterans Day we can take great pride that President Obama has set a goal of ending homelessness among veterans by 2014, and has implemented policy changes to achieve this goal as well as improve the quality of health care available to veterans:

- Housing vouchers to pay security deposits and back rent for disabled veterans
- A new Post 9/11 GI Bill for Iraq & Afghanistan veterans which increases educational opportunities by making college more affordable for returning service members
- Increase VA budgets by \$4.6 billion to recruit and retain more mental health professionals
- Fully fund the Department of Veterans Affairs with an extra \$1.4 billion to improve veterans services, including improved medical facilities
- Assist states in acquiring or constructing state nursing homes and extended care facilities
- Ordered much needed improvements at Walter Reed Military Hospital and other neglected military hospitals
- Signed the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform & Transparency Act, making more money available for veterans health care
- Signed a bill providing assistance for a) caregivers of veterans wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan in the form of training, funding and counseling for caregivers b) pilot childcare program for female vets under treatment at the VA and c) readjustment counseling for National Guard and Reserve units
- Eliminated co-payments for catastrophically disabled vets
- The Green Vet Initiative, which provides special funding to the Labor Department to provide veterans with training in green jobs
- Established a new interagency task force to assist veterans owning small businesses – promotes federal contract opportunities, improves access to loans and capital and mentor assistance programs

Thanks to President Obama's leadership, today's veterans are getting the support they deserve and need to continue to contribute to a stronger America.

Jackie Christianson & Todd Hedley
BCDP Pct Chair 2055 Pct Chair 3077

Col. Larry Romo On Courting the Vet Vote

by Lt. Colonel Lawrence Romo, US Air Force Ret.

Dear Bexar County Democratic Party CEC Friends;

I sincerely extend my deepest appreciation for you. You are the very strong backbone of the local Democratic Party and with your continued outstanding diligence and teamwork at the grassroots level; Bexar County will turn solid blue. You are highly commended for getting the old Primary debt paid to Bexar County. You made it happen! Great Job!

I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a Bexar County Precinct Chair on the CEC over about an eight year period. I have been serving the past 2 years as the 12th Director of the Selective Service System working directly for President Barack Obama. I can clearly tell you that the Federal Government does work at the Agency level as long as you 1) Take care of your assigned missions, 2) Take care of your employees, 3) Take care of the taxpayer dollars. I am proud to report that my Selective Service System Agency will be receiving a Top Performance award on November 16th from the Partnership for Public Service Corporation for receiving very high employee satisfaction marks on the recent annual Federal Wide OPM Employee Survey. We were near last of all federal agencies on the survey when I initially took over as the Director. I have thoroughly enjoyed the leadership experience to bring Selective Service System back to be a model federal agency. I look forward to returning to San Antonio in the future. I still have my permanent home and vote here.

We must work diligently together to get President Obama and get our Democratic elected officials re-elected. We must get our candidates elected. All of us must work to get the maximum vote out of the advocacy groups we are associated with. I want to discuss one very important advocacy group, the Military, Veterans and their family members/friends that can make a difference between winning and losing an election especially in Bexar County. I commend Choco Meza for establishing a Veterans Advisory Committee with Verna Blackwell-Hilario and Henry (Hilario) Garcia as Co-Chairman to assist the CEC, our candidates and elected officials understand the military, veteran issues and to get the vote out. Democrats must know "How to Value the Veteran Vote." Here are some ideas.

TEN WAYS TO VALUE THE VETERAN VOTE; HERE ARE THE FIRST 6 THINGS TO DO:

At every event you are going to speak more than 10 minutes, After acknowledging the folks in the group that invited you, ask:

- 1) How many veterans of our Armed Forces are in the crowds, please stand and remain standing (or raise your hand)
- 2) Please tell us the branch of the Armed Forces you were in & the unit you served with
- 3) Would the folks who have family members who are veterans please stand and remain standing
- 4) Would the folks who have close friends who are veterans please stand and remain standing
- 5) Would you join me in showing our appreciation for the veterans, their families & friends that live & work in this community by a round of applause.
- 6) At the end of your speaking say: "I want to thank the veterans of this community for your significant efforts & sacrifices to our country & community for our country & community. We cannot appreciate you enough, & welcome home!!

THESE ARE ADDITIONAL THINGS TO DO:

- 7) Someone you know in the community/district in which you are running belongs to a veteran's group. Get an invitation to attend every veteran's group, veteran's clinic, hospital (even if you don't speak) & go meet the vets.
- 8) Make sure you speak to & acknowledge the women's auxiliary group; they are doing the heavy lifting.
- 9) If you are a veteran yourself, wear the honors or awards for your service on your lapel or cap
- 10) Organize a Veterans Advisory Group whether you are a candidate or elected official.

These are activities that every Democratic candidate can use. Honoring veterans must be a priority.

Bexar County has about 150,000 veterans and if you add their family members and friends you can clearly see how we must get as many from this advocacy group to vote for our Democrats. Get to know what the issues and concerns of the local military, veterans and their family members are as this will go a long way for them to vote for Democrats. Be knowledgeable of where the veteran or family member can get assistance from our local community and go the extra step and help them out. President Obama is doing his part to support the military and veterans. Get to know some of the programs he has established. Michele Obama and Jill Biden have been actively engaged with military families and have shown genuine concern for their issues and have supported many programs for military families.

Again, whole-hearted thanks for what you do for the Bexar County Democratic Party!

Lt. Col. Lawrence Romo, US Army Ret
Former BCDP Pct Chair

The Bexar County Democratic Party would like to pay our respect to the following World War II veterans who all live here in San Antonio and are extended members of the Democratic Party family.

Frank Belzung - First Class Petty Officer, US Navy
Eugene Guzman - SGT. Santo G. Granado - 36th Infantry Division, US Army
SGT. Valentine P. Castillo - CBI Pacific Theater
PFC. C.P. Garcia - 103rd Regiment, 44th Infantry Div., US Army
CAPT. Edward F. Bysinski - US Air Force Ret.
Anastacio Juarez - US Army
Eduardo Juarez - US Army
COL. Herhard J. Schriever - (Ret USAF)

A Message from


TEXAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Dear Friend,

On Friday, the San Antonio court that is handling the redistricting lawsuits issued an order that makes changes to several aspects of the Election Schedule. Highlights:

- The filing window for candidates to file for a place on the Democratic Primary ballot has changed. Filing begins November 28th and ends December 15, 2011.
- Residency requirements for candidates for the State Legislature have changed. A person must be a resident of the district the person seeks to represent starting December 15, 2011.
- Precinct Chair candidates – as the voting precinct lines are still being drawn, the court has ordered that an incorrect precinct designation on an application for a place on the ballot shall not render the application invalid if the designation is corrected on or before December 19, 2011. An application for a place on the ballot for the office of precinct chair shall not be invalid if filed more than 90 days before the end of the filing period.
- The deadline for county chairs and state chairs to post notice of the dates of the candidate filing period in a public place in a building in which the chair has an office is November 11, 2011.

Thank you,

Cindy Flint

Primary and Convention Director
Texas Democratic Party